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All KPA Soldiers Placed on High State of Alert to Cope with Possible US Aggression

The Korean People's Army was placed on a high state of alert to cope with a possible attack by the United States and south Korea.

The Supreme Commander of the KPA ordered "all the units of the three services of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces and entire members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard and Red Young Guard to maintain a high degree of revolutionary vigilance and keep themselves in full combat readiness."

The Supreme Commander of the KPA is President Kim Il Sung.

The order came in a communique of the KPA Supreme Command issued on Mar. 21. **(See the communique on page 2)**

The communique said that this was a self-defence measure to cope with the new war provocation moves of the United States and south Korea.

In the past the DPRK took similar steps as the United States and south Korea staged their joint military exercise code-named "Team Spirit."

Despite strong protest from Pyongyang, Washington and Seoul began Team Spirit 88 in February.

The communique said that Team Spirit 88 "is a madcap offensive operation exercise and a very dangerous nuclear war exercise aimed at mounting a forestalling attack on our Republic."

Pyongyang has called the Team Spirit exercises "preliminary nuclear war" or "a nuclear test war", while Washington has insisted that they are "defensive in nature."

However, it was disclosed that the United States has been engaged in nuclear weapons training in south Korea.

An official U.S. document said that U.S. training in tactical nuclear bombing with mock weapons that duplicate the weight and shape of real nuclear bombs takes place in south Korea. **(See the House Armed Services Committee, FY 1982 Department of Defense)**

In 1986, the DPRK announced that it would suspend major military exercises and stop all of them while north-south dialogues continued, calling on the U.S. and south Korea to follow suit.

However, the United States and south Korea ignored the DPRK's important proposal and staged Team Spirit 86.

In recent years the DPRK has made a variety of proposals to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula and create a favourable atmosphere for the country's reunification.

These proposals included the proposal for the north-south high-level political and military talks, the proposal to convert the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, the proposal for phased arms reduction and the five-point proposal for national unity.

This year the DPRK put forward the proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference aimed at discussing some pressing issues, including the problem of stopping large-scale military exercises.

The communique of the KPA Supreme Command said, "Precisely at this time the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean military fascist clique faked up the missing jetliner incident and have since led the situation on the Korean Peninsula to an extreme pitch of strain, conducting a wholesale anti-DPRK smear campaign and stepping up arms buildup under the smokescreen of the 'guarantee of security of Seoul Olympics,' and furthermore, are staging the criminal 'Team Spirit 88' joint military rehearsal."

"However," it said, "we will never allow the imperialists and their stooges to threaten and provoke us as they please."

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK issued a statement on Mar. 23 in connection with the war game. **(See the statement on page 2)**

It urged the United States to immediately stop Team Spirit 88 and withdraw its troops from south Korea along with nuclear weapons.

The statement called on Seoul to "halt the treacherous act aimed at imposing a nuclear holocaust upon fellow countrymen, clinging to the coattails of their master."

Chongryun Issues Statement

Chongryun, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, also made public a statement in Tokyo on Mar. 24 to protest Team Spirit 88.

Pyongyang Hits US Show of Power against Nicaragua

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK on Mar. 20 harshly denounced military intervention moves of the U.S. against Nicaragua and expressed full support to and solidarity with the Nicaraguan people's struggle.

The spokesman said in a statement that military provocation of Washington has created an extremely tense situation in Nicaragua where a war may break out at any moment.

The statement went on:

Washington's ever more undisguised military intervention moves against Nicaragua that openly challenge the peace efforts of the Central American countries is a flagrant infringement upon the independence and sovereignty of Nicaragua and a vicious criminal act aimed at foiling the peace process in the Central American region and extending and aggravating disputes.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people strongly condemn the U.S. for taking brigandish armed intervention moves against Nicaragua by inventing the absurd pretext that the Nicaraguan troops invaded Honduras.

The U.S. imperialists, regarding the Latin American Continent as their hereditary estate, committed an armed intervention in a bid to stifle the Cuban revolution when it triumphed, and are still carrying on intrigues against Cuba.

They, however, sustained only an ignominious defeat.

With nothing can they block the triumphant advance of the Cuban revolution.

Far from learning a proper lesson from their anti-Cuban moves, the U.S. imperialists are working with bloodshot eyes in their anti-Nicaraguan moves.

They have hatched every conceivable plot to stifle the Nicaraguan revolution in its cradle from the very day of its victory.

This time they have gone over to an all-out direct armed intervention move with the massive mobilization of their aggression forces. This reveals itself that the U.S. imperialists have not given up their brigandish design to lull down the spirit of anti-imperialism and independence growing day by day in the Latin American Continent and to retain a permanent grip on this continent as their "tranquil backyard".

Today the Nicaraguan people are courageously fighting to defend the Sandinist revolution they have accomplished at the cost of blood and smash the U.S. imperialists' armed invasion.

A state of emergency was declared in Nicaragua and the whole country entered into a combat posture.

This is a righteous self-defence step of the Nicaraguan people to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the country.

The U.S. imperialists must stop immediately all their aggression and intervention moves to stifle the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary bandits and withdraw without delay their aggression troops deployed in Honduras.

The problem of Central America including Nicaragua must be solved peacefully by the efforts of the peoples in this region free from any foreign interference.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people extend firm support to and solidarity with the Nicaraguan people in the struggle against the aggression and intervention moves of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and will as ever stand firm on the side of the Nicaraguan people in the cause of anti-imperialism and independence.

Rodong Sinmun on US Deployment in Honduras

Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on Mar. 20 denounced the deployment of U.S. armed forces in Honduras bordering Nicaragua.

In a commentary, it said that the Korean people vehemently condemn the U.S. armed intervention move against Nicaragua and strongly demand an immediate withdrawal of U.S. armed forces from the areas bordering Nicaragua.

The author of the commentary said:

The rapid deployment of the U.S. mobile troops tells that the U.S. is on the point of mounting an open direct armed intervention against Nicaragua. This is a high-handed threat to the sovereignty and security of Nicaragua and a grave criminal act to foil the peace process in Central America.

In dispatching large armed forces of aggression by distorting and exaggerating facts the Reagan administration sought to get congressional approval of continuing military aid to Contra bandits now driven into a critical situation due to public denunciation and rejection at home and abroad and stifle the Nicaraguan revolution by such last means as use of armed forces.

The deployment of large U.S. armed forces is nothing but reckless desperate efforts of the Reagan regime to retrieve the repeated rebuff and failure in the "undeclared war" fought for many years.

With no frenzy can Reagan save the U.S. from the abyss of defeat in Nicaragua.

American soldiers arrive at Palmerola Air Base in Honduras on Mar. 17 in preparation for invasion against Nicaragua. (AP)

6th "April Spring Friendship Art Fest." to Be Held in Pyongyang

The Sixth "April Spring Friendship Art Festival" will be held in Pyongyang to celebrate the Apr. 15 holiday, birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

The festival will be participated in by over 60 art groups made up of international music concours winners and other famous artists from many countries of the five continents of the world.

The festival will contribute to strengthening and developing the friendship, solidarity, cultural exchange and relations among men of literature and art of different countries in the noble idea of independence, friendship and peace.

Communique of KPA Supreme Command

A communique of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army was issued in Pyongyang on Mar. 21.

The communique says:

The U.S. imperialists and the south Korean military fascist clique launched the provocative "Team Spirit 88" joint war exercises throughout south Korea from February last defying the unanimous protest and denunciation by the entire Korean people and the world's peace-loving people.

Involved in this aggressive war rehearsal are the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and the south Korean puppet army over 200,000 strong and all types of sophisticated operational equipment and nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons.

The units of all arms and services of the U.S. imperialist aggression army that had left the U.S. mainland and its military bases in the Asian-Pacific region such as Guam Island, Hawaii, Japan and the Philippines are now moving towards areas near the Demarcation Line, the areas south of it, and actions of the U.S. imperialist aggression troops occupying south Korea and the south Korean puppet army have become brisk.

And AWACS "E-3A", strategic bomber "B-52", fighter bombers "F-16" and "F-15" carrying nuclear weapons and planes of other types and a carrier flotilla with many escort and support ships and warships carrying nuclear weapons of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces are heading for the coastal waters of Korea. This has created an extremely grave situation on the Korean Peninsula where an all-out war may break out any moment.

The "Team Spirit 88" joint military maneuvers now being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean military fascist clique is a madcap offensive operation exercise and a very dangerous nuclear war exercise aimed at mounting a forestalling attack on our Republic.

Today the international situation as a whole shows a sign of gradual relaxation and the voice of the world's peace-loving people calling for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is growing stronger as days go by.

In recent years alone, our party and the government of our Republic put forward the proposal for the north-south high-level political and military talks, the proposal to convert the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, the proposal for phased arms reduction, the five-point proposal for national unity, etc. one after another in conformity with the expectation and desire of the entire Korean people and the world's peace-loving people and have striven hard for their materialisation.

In particular, in order to make this year a historical year of a new turning-point in the national reconciliation and unity between the north and the south, we put forward the proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference aimed at discussing and settling some immediate questions including the problem of stopping large-scale military exercises.

Precisely at this time the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean military fascist clique faked up the missing jetliner incident and have since led the situation on the Korean Peninsula to an extreme pitch of strain, conducting a wholesale anti-DPRK smear campaign and stepping up arms buildup under the smoke-screen of the "guarantee of security of Seoul Olympics", and furthermore, are staging the criminal "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal.

This is not only a downright challenge to our Republic and the entire Korean people, but also a grave threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Pursuing an aggressive Asian strategy, the U.S. imperialists have long made haste with the formation of the U.S.-Japan-south Korea triangular military alliance, increased military bases in and around south Korea and massively introduced nuclear weapons and various types of modern war means into it, thus converting it into a most dangerous war arsenal and nuclear forward base.

They annually escalated the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises. As a result, this rehearsal has been turned into a test nuclear war game, very dangerous and adventurous. This year, too, the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique started the "Team Spirit 88" joint military maneuvers against the DPRK. This is a sinister provocative move to lead the tense situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war and impose the holocaust of a thermonuclear war upon Asia and the world.

The Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, in view of the very dangerous situation in our country where the dark cloud of another war, a nuclear war, is gathering owing to the reckless military provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique, ordered all the units of the three services of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces and entire members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard and Red Young Guard to maintain a high degree of revolutionary vigilance and keep themselves in full combat readiness.

One-hundred and fifty thousand officers and men of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces now engaged in the socialist economic construction are also ordered to keep themselves fully ready to promptly go into action any moment. This is a self-defence measure to cope with the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean military fascist clique.

Our people love peace. They never want war.

We have consistently made all efforts to peacefully solve the issue of national reunification by means of dialogue and negotiation, not by confrontation and war.

However, we will never allow the imperialists and their stooges to threaten and provoke us as they please.

If the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique dare to force a war on our people, they will rise as one man in the struggle to defend their inviolable territory, their people's power and socialist system and retaliate against them a hundred, a thousand times.

All the units of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces, members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard and the Red Young Guard and the entire people will closely follow every move of the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique with heightened revolutionary vigilance and maintain full combat readiness to thoroughly smash any war provocation move of the enemy in time, always keeping themselves in a tense and mobilised posture, and thus firmly defend our land, sea and air like an iron wall.

Statement of DPRK Foreign Ministry

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK released a statement in Pyongyang on Mar. 23.

The full text of the statement reads:

The "Team Spirit 88" joint military maneuvers launched by the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique throughout south Korea against the DPRK defying the strong public denunciation at home and abroad have entered into a full-dress stage.

Involved in this provocative war rehearsal are large armed forces more than 200,000 strong including 60,000 U.S. imperialist aggression troops and AWACS "E-3A", "B-52" strategic bombers, fighter bombers "F-16" and "F-15" carrying nuclear weapons and many other planes and tanks, missiles and a carrier flotilla and various other types of sophisticated operational equipment and mass destruction weapons from the U.S. mainland and U.S. military bases in Guam Island, Hawaii, Japan and the Philippines.

During the several month-long war exercise the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique will reportedly stage big combined "landing operation," "river crossing operation," "airlifting operation," "firing warfare," "missile launching exercise," etc. and even "special operation" against the DPRK. Due to these reckless war maneuvers, the situation in Korea is now growing extremely tense and the dark cloud of a nuclear war is heavily hanging over our land.

The U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique are staging the "Team Spirit 88" at a time when the DPRK government put forward reasonable nation-saving proposals for easing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and achieving peace and peaceful reunification. This clearly tells that they are bringing the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of a war.

The DPRK government and the entire Korean people vehemently denounce the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal of the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique as a heinous criminal act intended to impose a horrible nuclear disaster upon our people, dead set against peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification, and as a grave menace to peace in Asia and the world.

The "Team Spirit 88" is an out-and-out aggressive preliminary war and a test nuclear war in view of the scale of the armed forces involved and standard of their equipment, the duration of the exercises and their nature and timing.

Vast armed forces of both sides are standing in acute confrontation along the Military Demarcation Line that divides the Korean Peninsula today and south Korea has turned into the largest nuclear arsenal in the Far East.

Under this situation who on earth can assert that the reckless play with fire by the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppets will not develop to be an all-out thermonuclear war?

With nothing can they cover up the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit 88"

The government of our Republic stated more than once that it has no intention to "invade south".

The international situation as a whole shows a sign of gradual relaxation and voice of the world peace-loving people who wish the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is growing louder with each passing day.

In keeping with the expectation and desire of the entire Korean people and the world's peace-loving people, the DPRK government in recent years alone put forward one proposal after another for detente, including the proposal for discontinuing arms buildup and arms race and reducing the armed forces of the north and the south each to 100,000 men or less, the proposal for concluding a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States and adopting a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south, the proposal for converting the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and the proposal for discontinuing large-scale military exercises.

It advanced the proposal for a drastic phased arms reduction in July last year, in particular, made efforts in every way for its realization and unilaterally cut its armed forces by 100,000 men.

This year our Republic, with a view to easing the tension on the Korean Peninsula and bringing about a new turning-point in national reconciliation and unity, put forward the epoch-making proposal for convening a north-south joint conference aimed at discussing and settling such urgent matters as discontinuing the "Team Spirit" and other large-scale military exercises and holding multinational disarmament talks.

These proposals of ours have met with broad support and sympathy of the entire Korean people and the world public for their validity and reasonableness.

But, the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique turned down all our fair and aboveboard proposals and answered them with premeditated aggravation of the tension from the beginning of the year and with the "Team Spirit 88" joint military maneuvers.

Moreover, the U.S. imperialists are massing a huge amount of weapons and military hardware including aircraft carrier in south Korea and its surrounding waters, and will reportedly replace the old military hardware with the ammunition and war supplies they have introduced for the current military exercises or transfer them to the south Korean puppets under the pretext of "ensuring the security of the Olympic Games."

The "threat from the north" and "security of the Olympic Games" advertized by the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppets are nothing but a trick to justify their arms buildup and nuclear war moves, divert elsewhere people's attention from the anti-American, anti-fascist struggle for democracy mounting high in south Korea and find a pretext for the provocation of another war of aggression against the DPRK.

It is by no means fortuitous that the south Korean students and other people are energetically waging the anti-American, anti-"government" struggle to gain democracy and national sovereignty.

The U.S. imperialists and the south Korean military fascist clique must look straight at the trend of the times and act with discretion.

If they think they can find a way out of the serious crisis of the tottering colonial military fascist ruling system in the aggravation of the tension and the provocation of another war of aggression, it is a gross miscalculation.

The DPRK government and the Korean people will never pardon the reckless war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the south Korean puppet clique.

Having received the order of the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, the officers and men of our People's Army and People's Security Forces and the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard and the Red Young Guard are keenly watching every movement of the U.S. imperialists

(Continued on page 3)

Tasks of This Year in Socialist Construction (4)

—Agriculture—

(Continued from the No. 1,375 issue)

The agricultural working people of the DPRK have made many successes in making farming preparations at the beginning of this year.

President Kim Il Sung said in his New Year address as follows:

"In continued adherence to the agriculture-first policy of our party, we must produce large numbers of tractors, lorries and modern farm machinery that suit our situation, as well as various kinds of chemical fertilizers for the country areas while launching an all-people movement to establish a sprinkler irrigation system for 500,000 hectares of dry fields, projects to bring irrigation to a new higher stage and complete it. In addition, we must push forward tideland reclamation projects and the movement to obtain new tracts of farmland so as to increase the cultivated area."

Mechanization

At present, there is a great demand for cars and tractors from cooperative farms.

Thus, the DPRK this year is to produce them more than 2 times than last year.

It has laid a solid material and technical basis to complete this task of the rural economy.

The DPRK will increase production of "Chungsong-ho"-type tractors as many as 3.5 times more than last year and mass-produce newly developed "Chonjin-ho"-type tractors.

Especially, the "Chonjin-ho"-type tractor is more powerful and is more excellent in many respects than the former one. It will greatly contribute to relieve the farmers of their onerous toil and promote comprehensive mechanization of the rural economy.

The DPRK also is to more produce other modern farm machines in keeping with its actual situation.

Last year, President Kim Il Sung inspected newly-made farm machines in operation and expressed satisfaction over the successful manufacture of the efficient and rational farm machines, which was achieved by the scientists and technicians of various units including the research collective of the Agricultural Mechanization Institute.

This year, scientists and technicians engaged in the research of farm machines will invent and manufacture more farm machines to suit the topographical conditions of each province.

Irrigation

The sprinkler irrigation projects for dry fields are an important guarantee for increased grain production.

The farmers can accomplish a new long-term goal to produce 15 million tons of grain when a good harvest is ensured for farms in hilly areas under the actual condition of the DPRK where areas under cultivation are limited. Therefore, if they wish to increase a per-hectare yield of maize on all farms in hilly and mountainous areas, they should carry out sprinkler irrigation projects.

If the sprinkler irrigation system is introduced in non-paddy fields, it is said that over two more tons of maize will be reaped per hectare.

According to data available at the agricultural commission, sprinkler irrigation projects started for more than 75,000 hectares of non-paddy fields in the last slightly over four months throughout the country.

In this period, large quantities of necessary equipment were secured—nearly 2,000 water pumps, more than 3,550 motors and some 1,300 transformers.

In February, all provinces pushed ahead in real earnest projects for the sprinkler irrigation of non-paddy fields, concentrating efforts on the production of concrete piping.

In particular, South Pyongan Province now produces over 12,000 meters of concrete pipes a day. The province which has already completed sprinkler irrigation projects for more than 1,560 hectares of non-paddy fields and built pumping stations in over 420 places is now stepping up the project of laying pipes in some 2,000 hectares of non-paddy fields.

South Hamgyong Province and Nampo and Kaesong municipalities are increasing the production of pipes 1.2 times these days as against the like period of the previous month.

The sprinkler irrigation of non-paddy fields now being carried on through a mass movement is an important undertaking to bring the already completed irrigation of agriculture to a new higher stage.

Korea sets it as her goal to realize the sprinkler irrigation of 500,000 hectares of non-paddy fields in a few years to come.

Chemicalization

President Kim Il Sung stressed the need to produce various kinds of chemical fertilizers in his New Year address.

It is an important condition for promoting and completing chemicalization of the rural economy to produce and supply various kinds of chemical products including chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals in larger quantities.

In the Sunchon district, a larger integrated chemical industry base is under construction at high speed.

The builders of the construction site have completed the first stage construction work to create the production capacity of 50,000 tons of vinalon in the past year.

They made trial runs and started operation of various kinds of equipment and a part of the system has started production.

The construction of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex is also progressing apace.

When this complex is completed and at least 3 million tons of potassic feldspar is annually processed, 510,000 tons of potassic fertilizer, 420,000 tons of alumina and more than 10 million tons of cement will be produced.

Meanwhile, fertilizer complexes are under construction in many provinces including Anju in South Pyongan Province and in Kumya in South Hamgyong Province.

Many large-, medium- and small-scale chemical complexes will be constructed this year to contribute to the production of fertilizer.

Cultivated Area

The cultivated area should be increased together with stepped-up production of fertilizer to boost grain production.

Especially, it is of great significance to reclaim tideland and to obtain new farmland to increase the cultivated area in the DPRK where mountainous areas account for 84 percent of the territory.

In the past, Korea produced 10 million tons of grain from only 2 million hectares of cultivated area.

The drive to reclaim 300,000 hectares of tideland and create 200,000 hectares of new land is being carried on in order to produce 15 million tons of grain within the period of the new long-term objectives.

Builders have already turned 35,000 hectares of reclaimed land into arable land including reclaimed land in Taegyedo, North Pyongan Province.

Besides, reclamation projects are underway to reclaim tideland in Soho, Kado and Changdo in North Pyongan Province, 50-odd tideland areas in Ungdo and Taedongman in South Hwanghae Province and tideland in South Pyongan Province.

Meanwhile, vigorous drives to obtain new land and reclaim waste land are being unfolded in many places including the reclamation work on 16,000 hectares of land in Ryanggang Province.

(Concluded)

A cooperative farm introducing a sprinkler irrigation system.

Reclaimed land is turned into a fertile rice field.

(Continued from page 2)

and the south Korean puppet clique. Should the enemy dare attack them they would retaliate against him a hundred, a thousand times.

Our people oppose war and love peace but will never beg for it.

Clearly mindful that with no move can they ever dampen the unanimous desire and aspiration of our people who are all-out in the just cause, the U.S. imperialists must immediately stop the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises they are staging under the untenable pretext and withdraw from south Korea at an early date, taking along nuclear weapons and all other lethal weapons.

The south Korean military fascist clique should halt the treacherous act aimed at imposing a nuclear holocaust upon fellow countrymen, clinging to the coattails of their master.

If the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique continue military exercises and arms buildup in defiance of our earnest assertion, it will only betray the fact that they are increasing the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula with an ax to grind.

The DPRK government and the entire Korean people express the firm belief that all the peace-loving governments and peoples of the world will approach with a high vigilance the vicious moves of the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique to abuse the sacred Olympic Games for their "two Koreas" plot and war policy and the criminal "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises and lift up voices of justice denouncing them.

The government of the DPRK and the Korean people will check and frustrate the moves of the U.S. imperialists and south Korean puppets to provoke another war on the Korean Peninsula and firmly defend peace in Asia and the world and make patient efforts to achieve the peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

Flower Presenters at Panmunjom Interviewed by Our Paper

—Women Who Presented Flower Bouquets to S. Korean Delegates Testify Truth to Explode Seoul's Fabrication—

The south Koreans released what they call "photos of Kim Hyon Hui" in a bid to fabricate a "Kim Hyon Hui" saga. An investigation team sent by Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) conducted interviews with the two women whose photos were used by the south Koreans to endorse the "Kim Hyon Hui" saga. As a result of the interview, the south Korean's scheme to pass the "flower presenters" off as "Kim Hyon Hui" has been completely exploded.

Here are testimonies of the two women who, respectively, presented flower bouquets to the south Korean delegates to the second meeting of the North-South Coordinating Committee in November 1972 and those to the N-S Red Cross talks in August 1972:

Wang Yong Suk, flower presenter in Panmunjom at the time of the North-South Red Cross talks in August 1972

My name is Wang Yong Suk. I am 29 years old and lead a happy life with two children.

The girl who makes a pioneer-style salute in photo (A) is me.

I did not present a flower bouquet to head of the south Korean delegation to the time of the North-South Red Cross talks.

I did not present a bouquet at the time of the North-South Coordinating Committee nor did I give flowers to Chang Key Young.

Although it took place 16 years ago, I still remember the scene in this photo.

This photo was taken by a south Korean journalist while I was waiting for the south Korean delegates to the Red Cross talks. At that time he approached me, asking me to make a pioneer-style salute.

As I made a pioneer-style salute, the south Korean journalist asked me why I raised my hand over head.

So I answered in this way.

We give a pioneer-style salute by raising our hands over our heads so as to express our idea that the pioneer organization is always ahead of individuals and more precious than indivisuals.

Then, the south Korean reporter told me that he could understand it, and said to me to pose for a photo.

As I was giving a salute, he took a picture.

Although I was young at that time I still vividly remember the scene.

The moment I looked at this photo (A), I thought "It's me!"

However, the south Koreans fabricated a false story. They cooked up a flower presenter at the time of the coordinating committee meeting.

Moreover, they are carrying out a malicious scheme to call me "Mayumi" when I live in the DPRK.

As you see in this photo, I presented a flower bouquet on August 29, 1972 when the North-South Red Cross talks was held.

As you can see in this photo, it's me.

When I presented a bouquet to Lee Bom Sok, head of the south Korean delegates (for the Red Cross talks), he said to me, "Thank you" and picked a case of ball-point pens from his pocket, telling me to keep it.

Ms. Wang Yong Suk at present

So, I said to him.

"We lead happily life in the bosom of our father leader, President Kim Il Sung, feeling no envy at anything. Please give it back to poor south Korean children."

When I said so, he blushed his face as if he were disgraced and looked aside, putting the ball-point pens back in his pocket.

At that time I was highly delighted to see him do so, though I was so young.

In spite of the fact (that I presented a bouquet at the time of the Red Cross talks), how can they pass me off as "Mayumi"?

I can not stand this.

I can not repress my feeling of indignation at the plot to impair the authority of the Republic and debase its dignity.

"The girl in the photo giving the pioneer-style salute is me."

Wang Yong Suk at the time of the North-South Red Cross talks in August 1972.

Wang Yong Suk giving a pioneer-style salute at Panmunjom on August 29, 1972 at the time of the North-South Red Cross talks. South Korea's KBS TV telecasted this photo to fabricate a "Kim Hyon Hui" saga, saying "Kim Hyon Hui giving a pioneer-style salute." (PHOTO A)

Rim Yun Bok, flower presenter in Panmunjom at the time of the North-South Coordinating Committee meeting in November 1972.

I'm Rim Yun Bok, the girl who presented a bouquet of flowers to Chang Key Young, a south Korean delegate at the second meeting of the North-South Coordinating Committee.

I was 14 years old at the time.

Now I'm 30 years old, happily married and living with my two children. I got married in Yokchon-dong in the city of Kaesong.

At that time (1972) I was attending Manwol Girls Middle School in Kaesong.

A total of 25 students were selected to present flowers to the south Korean delegates and subsequently we were taken to Panmunjom.

Five of the students were from my school, some were from Sonjuk Middle School and the others came from two other schools.

In photo (B) which was taken at the time, I'm the second girl on the left low.

The students in front of me were my classmates and are now also living happily in Kaesong.

Photo (A) shows me presenting flowers to the south Korean delegate. The man was tall and stout with a sun-tanned complexion.

The place was so crowded that Mr. Chong Song Chol (the man in charge of the ceremony) who was standing beside me had to push me forward so I could present the flowers to Chang Key Young.

As I presented the flowers to Chang Key Young, he asked my age and what school I went to. I still vividly remember his smile as I answered his questions and he told me that I seemed to be a reliable girl.

What I want to clarify once and for all is that I am the girl who presented the bouquet to Chang Key Young, not "Mayumi" as the south Koreans has tried to claim.

Ms. Rim Yun Bok at present

"The girl who presented a bouquet of flowers to Chang Key Young at the second meeting of the North-South Coordinating Committee was me, not 'Mayumi.'"

Rim Yun Bok presenting a flower bouquet to Chang Key Young on Nov. 4, 1972 at the time of the North-South Coordinating Committee. South Korea's KBS television telecasted her as "Kim Hyon Hui." (PHOTO A)

Girls in a double line waiting for the south Korean delegates to present flower bouquets to them at Panmunjom in November, 1972 at the time of the second meeting of the North-South Coordinating Committee. Marked with a double circle is Ms. Rim Yung Bok when she was a student of Manwol Girls Middle School. (PHOTO B)

"Team Spirit 88", Nuclear War Rehearsal Aggravates Tension In Korea

The "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises are being conducted on an unprecedented scale across south Korea.

The United States had previously given the false impression that it would reduce the size of this annual war game or suspend it altogether. However, on Jan. 28 it announced that the exercises would start at the beginning of February and continue until mid-May, involving the mobilization of over 200,000 military personnel.

Consequently, since early February the U.S. has been sending a massive amount of munitions and a lot of servicemen to south Korea.

This is the largest joint war game in the world and is widely believed to be a rehearsal for a nuclear war. Clear evidence of this has been provided by the participation of an "E4B" aircraft, which has recently been called a "command aircraft for a total nuclear war."

Participation of "E4B"

The "nuclear war command aircraft" arrived at Yokota airbase, Japan, on Mar. 8 to take part in the joint war game organized by the United States and south Korea.

This ominous aircraft participated in the "Team Spirit" military drills for the first time last year.

Military analysts have described the "E4B" as an "aerial command" in the event of an emergency such as a total nuclear war. The go-ahead would be given to strategic nuclear bombers and ICBM bases from the plane.

Massive Munitions & Weapons Introduced to S. Korea

The U.S. warship "Pelreru" left Hong Kong on Mar. 9 for south Korean waters after a four day stay there.

The warship based at Subic naval base in the Philippines carries 2,200 marines, 30 helicopters, 2 amphibious assault landing craft and many tanks and jeeps.

Earlier on Feb. 27, the high speed cargo ship "Tekuril" arrived at Pusan in south Korea with a cargo of some 1,000 military vehicles and other armaments.

The cargo ship is scheduled to make more trips to south Korea during March carrying more military hardware.

Meanwhile the U.S. aircraft carrier "Midway" arrived at Pusan on Mar. 21 to take part in the war games.

The carrier which belongs to the Seventh Fleet has been involved in the war game every year since 1980 and has played a leading role in the provocative military exercises.

. . . . . .

As a matter of fact, "Team Spirit" has been changing its nature year by year. Nowadays it is not a Korean military drill but is staged in accordance with American global strategy on supposition of a total nuclear war in Korea," claimed Fujii Haruo, a Japanese military expert.

The U.S.-south Korean Combined Forces Command has not given details of the war game in recent years in an apparent attempts to divert criticism, that it is the largest war game in the world and could contribute to the outbreak of war on the Korean Peninsula.

Fire Bombs Thrown at U.S. Base in Seoul

Seven Molotove cocktails were thrown into a U.S. military base in Seoul on Mar. 18 in an apparent show of protest against Washington's policy toward south Korea, according to a Kyodo report from Seoul.

Seven youths threw fire bombs into the base from a backgate to break two windows of the military facility but the bombs did not cause a fire, Kyodo quoted a south Korean guard as saying.

On the evening of Mar. 18, some 300 students held a rally against the U.S. and the dictatorship at Hanyang University which is located near the base.

The fire bomb-throwing seemed to be an act of the students who joined in the anti-American rally, police said.

"E4B" aircraft arrived at Yokota airbase, Japan, to participate in the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises. (Asahi Shimbun, Mar. 10)

'Little' Chun's Comedown

Far Eastern Economic Review (Mar. 31)

Only a month after handling over power, Chun Doo Hwan may be getting the uneasy feeling that his critics have started to snap at his heels as new President Roh Tae Woo seeks to put more distance between himself and Chun's Fifth Republic. Given the ominous storm brewing around his younger brother's management of the corruption-plagued Saemaul rural-development movement, he may be right.

If Chun was a decidedly unpopular figure, 45-year-old Chun Kyong Hwan – Little Chun, as he is known – is even more so. Beef growers, angry over his controversial 1984 importation of American cattle, referred to him in a recent REVIEW interview as "a national traitor." And when he visited New Jersey's Kikoo Restaurant in 1986, Korean-American diners threw eggs at him.

With Roh publicly encouraging free expression, Seoul's newspapers have been homing in on the younger Chun. "There can no longer be any 'safe heaven' to escape this kind of investigation," said the Tonga Ilbo newspaper in a pointed dig at past presidential protection. "To say it in more concrete terms, Mr. Chun must not be left out of the people to be investigated."

Chun flew to Japan on 18 March as the controversy grew, but two days later he returned to face questioning by government prosecutors investigating the alleged misappropriation of billions of won in Saemaul funds and the illegal use of property. "Frankly, I was surprised he came back," said on administration source. "But the ex-president realises this is a hot issue and if it remains untouched, the opposition will use it."

At a press conference the day after his return, the man who is still listed in the state-run Yonhap News Agency's Korea Annual as the movement's honorary chairman, said he would take full responsibility for whatever emerges from the investigation. At least 29 key Saemaul and Home Ministry officials, many with close links to Chun, are under suspicion.

Perhaps fearing a backlash against himself, Chun Doo Hwan sent a message to Roh on 19 March saying an inquiry was desirable "rather than be open to criticism by the mass media and popular voices." The former president's reaction came as he prepared to leave for a three-week visit to the US at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan and the New York-based Council on Foreign Affairs.

Developed by president Park Chung Hee in the early 1960s to improve the welfare of the rural population, the Saemaul Undong network rapidly became an important vote-catching mechanism for Park's Democratic Republican Party and later Chun's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP). Many critics consider it has now outlived its intended usefulness.

A retired lieutenant-colonel who worked in the Blue House under Park, Chun Kyong Hwan served as secretary-general of Saemaul between 1981 and 1985 and then as chairman up until the time of his resignation in February last year when political demonstrations were moving towards their June climax. The power he wielded during those years and his penchant for riding roughshod over various ministries earned him many enemies in south Korea's bureaucracy.

Indeed, controversy seems to follow him. In August 1986 he hurriedly left for the US after his name was linked to politically connected gangland figures implicated in the grisly knife murders of four men in a Seoul nightclub. Although the officially explained purpose of his trip was to enrol in a rural-development course at Harvard University, he never went through with the course and eventually slipped back into the country.

Despite his brother's departure from the Blue House, Chun had until recently harboured political ambitions of his own. He was dissuaded by the DJP from having his name included among more than 1,400 prospective candidates for the National Assembly elections in April, and he is also said to have been talked out of standing as an independent in his hometown of Hapchon in South Kyongsang Province.

Anxious to form his own power base, Roh was used the candidate screening process to trim a number of Chun Doo Hwan's prominent supporters, among them former DJP secretary-generals Kwon Ik Hyon and Kwon Jung Dal, and the ex-president's brother-in-law, Kim Sang Koo. In Chun Kyong Hwan's case, Roh may have to go a lot further to convince people that old influences do not work any more.

Roh Tae Woo Allegedly Involved in "Saemaeul" Scandal

It was disclosed on Mar. 10 that Roh Tae Woo and the successive home ministers of south Korea had misappropriated "state treasury" funds to offer financial aid to the "Saemaul Newspaper Company Ltd." owned by Chun Kyong Hwan, younger brother of the former "president" Chun Doo Hwan, for six years from July 1981 to June 1987.

On Mar. 11 also made clear was the fact that the culture-information ministry which had no direct connection with or authority over the movement had extended financial support to the headquarters of the Saemaul (new village) movement.

The funds illegally misappropriated to give to the Saemaul headquarters or Chun Kyong Hwan amounted to 8.8 billion won, according to Dong-A Ilbo on Mar. 10. If 3.2 billion won which had been misappropriated and channeled into the Saemaul headquarters is added, the total amounts to 12 billion won.

These facts were revealed in September last year at a session of the Board of Audit and Inspection but have been veiled so far.

A total of 8.8 billion won of "national funds" were misappropriated by the home ministry and were used to distribute some 34 million copies of "Saemaul Shinmun" (weekly paper of the "Seamaul movement") in the past six years.

It was after July 1981 when Chun Kyong Hwan purchased more than 51 percent of the newspaper company's share that the home ministry began to buy most of the publication from the "Saemaul" headquarters.

The home ministry has earmarked some 1.5 billion won from "national funds" for expenses for city and provincial development, but the fund had been used to buy the paper by Chun Doo Hwan's younger brother.

It is said that the successive home ministers had "excessive loyalty" to Chun Doo Hwan as well as "strong pressure" brought to bear on them by Chun Kyong Hwan in the background of the misappropriation of "national funds," according to Dong-A Ilbo.

Those home ministers who are allegedly involved in the financial scandal are: Roh Tae Woo (April 1982-July 1983); So Yong Hwa (July 1981-April 1982); Chu Young Bok (July 1983-February 1985); Chong Sok Mo (February 1985-August 1986); Kim Jong Ho (August 1986-February 1987), Chong Ho Yong (January 1987-May 1987); Ko Gon (May 1987-July 1987) and Chong Gwan Yong (July 1987-September 1987).

Even the incumbent home minister, ignoring an audit notice from the Board of Audit and Inspection, has already allocated some 708 million won out of expenses for rural and provincial development to purchase the newspaper.

According to Dong-A Ilbo dated Mar. 11, the home ministry also has paid some 32 billion won out of the "national funds" to the Saemaul headquarters and bought "Saemaul", a monthly magazine published by its headquarters, and distributed them to leaders of the "Saemaul" movement free of charge.

The number of copies of the magazines so far distributed to them amounts more than 10 million.

Preparations for 13th World Fest. Of Youth, Students Promoted

The Korean youth and students are making full preparations for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students.

Young workers and farmers and students across the country are devoting one or a half of their holidays each month to production and construction during their preparations for the festival, after marking it off as day of public assistance to the festival.

Through this voluntary labour youth of the Chollima Steel Complex produced 3,000 tons of steel and youth of the Musan Mine Complex 3,200 tons of concentrate.

This labour assistance greatly helps step up the projects for the festival.

More than 20 million young men throughout the country have participated in the voluntary work in little over one year.

Youth in Pyongyang are taking an active part in labour assistance to hasten the completion of the projects for the festival.

Over 5,000 young citizens are now taking part in the construction of Kwangbok Street, an object of the festival.

Youth and students across the country are sending beautiful and peculiar trees, flower seeds and lawn seeds to the construction sites for the festival.

Nearly 40,000 trees of different kinds and over 45 tons of lawn seeds have been sent to the construction sites of Kwangbok Street by the end of January this year.

They are well raising pigeons for the festival.

Brisk are preparations for the grand Pyongyang festival.

Sports and Culture

Wrestling

● DPRK boys proved successful at the 27th "Dan Kolov" International Free-style Wrestling Tournament held in Bulgaria.

Kim Yong Sik placed first in the 57 kg category and Li Hak Son third in the 48 kg category. (*Mar. 19 KCNA report*)

● DPRK players gave a good account of themselves at the friendly army wrestling tournament held in Ulan Bator.

Li Jae Sik placed first in the 48 kg category and Hong Chol Ho second in the 100 kg category, Ma Jung Nam, Kim Il Chol and Kim Song U third respectively in the 52, 57 and 62 kg categories. (*Mar. 18 KCNA report*)

Judo

DPRK player Li Chang Su placed first in 71 kg category at the International Judo Tournament for the "Czechoslovak Liberation Trophy" held in Prague. (*Mar. 16 KCNA report*)

Skating

DPRK skaters proved successful at the International Junior Friendship Speed Skating Tournament of Socialist Countries held in Mongolia.

Ha Yong Il carried off the gold in the men's 500 metre race and the silver in the men's 1,500 metre race and Chong Chang Suk the silver in the women's 500 metre race. (*Mar. 4 KCNA report*)

Badminton

DPRK girls Pak Yong Sil and Pak Sun Bok respectively came first and second in the girl's singles at the 15th International Junior Badminton Tournament for "Druzhba" Cup held in Bulgaria.

DPRK boy Li Yong Hwan placed third in the boy's singles.

And the DPRK's players came second in the team event.

(*Feb. 18 KCNA report*)

Volleyball

Friendship matches took place in Pyongyang between the DPRK and Mongolian men's volleyball teams.

The Amnokgang, Kigwancha and Pyongyang city men's teams of the DPRK beat the Mongolian team 3 : 0 respectively. The Chongchongang team of the DPRK lost the match to the visiting team 2 : 3. (*Mar. 22 KCNA report*)

Sports Contest

The "Paekdusan Prize" Sports Contest took place from Feb. 10 to Mar. 4.

The contest is one of the largest scale sports games which are held regularly every year on the occasion of the February holiday from 1977.

Track and field, calisthenics, basketball, volleyball, Korean traditional wrestling, shooting and many other events took place in Pyongyang and local areas.

The sportsmen who participated in the contest fully displayed the sports technique they cultivated with much sweat through day-to-day training in hearty response to the party's call for rapidly developing the sports science and technique to raise our physical culture and sports to the world level in all events and thereby scored good results.

Music & Dance Performance On Int'l Women's Day

A music and dance performance was given here Mar. 7 by artists in the city to mark the international women's day of Mar. 8.

Invited to see the performance were wives of foreign diplomatic envoys in the DPRK and other foreign women.

Czechoslovak Film Show

A film show was held at the Chollima House of Culture on Feb. 29 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the February Victory of the Czechoslovak Working People.

Invited there were ambassador of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the DPRK Vaclav Herman and his embassy officials.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries O Mun Han, Vice Chairman of the Korea-Czechoslovakia Friendship Association Paek Se Yun and other officials concerned and working people in the city.

The participants appreciated a Czechoslovak film.

On Occasion of 39th Anniv. of Agreement of DPRK-USSR Econ., Cul. Cooperation

Film Shows, Parties Held in Pyongyang

● The Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society on Mar. 16 arranged a film show and cocktail party on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the Soviet Union.

Soviet Ambassador to the DPRK Gennadi Bartoshevich and his embassy officials were invited there.

Present there were Li Mong Ho, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Kim Song Hwan, vice minister of external economic affairs, Li Bong Hui, vice chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK and vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, other officials concerned and working people in the city.

Speeches were exchanged at the cocktail party.

Meanwhile, the North Hamgyong Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee also arranged a film show on Mar. 16 on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the Soviet Union.

● Soviet Ambassador to the DPRK Gennadi Bartoshevich on the evening of Mar. 17 arranged a film show and cocktail party at his embassy on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the Soviet Union.

Present there on invitation were Kim Yong Chae, minister of post and telecommunications and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society; Li Mong Ho, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Kwon Min Jun, vice director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Kim Jae Suk, vice minister of foreign affairs; Song Hui Chol, vice minister of foreign trade; Kim Song Hwan, vice minister of external economic affairs; Kim Chang Guk, vice minister of culture and art; Li Bong Hui, vice chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK and vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, and other officials concerned.

Soviet embassy officials were present there.

Then a cocktail party was given.

At the party which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere speeches were exchanged.

Meanwhile, a film show was held on Mar. 17 at the Consulate General of the Soviet Union in Chongjin on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the Soviet Union.

Korean Students Here Visit Underground Shelter Built by Koreans During War

Students of the Nagano Korean Elementary and Junior High School looking around the underground air-raid shelter.

On Mar. 11 the third graders of the Nagano Korean Elementary and Junior High School visited the site of the imperial headquarters of Japan, which was reportedly constructed by more than 10,000 Koreans, who were drafted to work in Japan during the war.

The site of Japan's imperial headquarters is located at Matsushiro-cho, Nagano Prefecture.

Students heard about the forced labor imposed upon the drafted Koreans from their parents and grandparents and at school.

They visited there for the first time. Prior to their visit, they studied the forced labor of Koreans for a week.

While visiting the site, students were surprised at the size of an underground air-raid shelter and the hard forced labor the drafted Koreans had undergone during the war.

Prof. Aoki Takahisa of Nagano Junior College, who is also the chairman of the Committee to Promote the Campaign to Preserve the Site of the Imperial Headquarters, explained the reason why the headquarters had to be dug and the fact of forced labor of drafted Koreans as the students looked around the east side of the underground air-raid shelter.

He said: "We don't know yet how many Koreans died and were injured, while digging the imperial headquarters. Now a campaign is conducted to preserve the scars of war as they are."

Helmeted students walked a part of the underground air-raid shelter.

The place is five meters wide, four meters high and six kilometers long, which was dug by hand, using dynamite.

Prof. Aoki's explanation and the site of the imperial headquarters impressed the students.

Looking around the site of the sad history of the drafted Koreans, students looked unable to repress their anger and chagrined.

Students said:

"I'm sad to hear that this big underground shelter was dug by drafted Koreans."

"I am filled with anger and grudge."

"This tells me the harsh facts which are beyond indignation."

Famous Figures of The Past in Korea

Illustrious Scientists (3)
Hong Dae Yong, Astronomer

In former days the earth was believed to be plane and to be the centre of the universe. People of Korea also thought that the world where they lived was square and covered by a round sky.

But now even children know that the earth is round and that it is one of the planets of the solar system moving around the sun.

Hong Dae Yong (1731-1783) was an astronomer of Korea in the Li Dynasty (1392-early 20th century) who for the first time in those days advanced the theory that the earth is round, not plane and revolves round the sun. It gave a great shock in those days to those who held the old view of the world.

It was in the mid 17th century that the discoveries of Western astronomy were introduced to Korea through books of Western astronomy translated into Chinese by a missionary from the West. Though Western astronomy was regarded as advanced, it did not go beyond the doctrine of Christianity and was a rehash of Aristotle's theory by some specialists including Matteo Ricci (1552-1610).

Hong Dae Yong went ahead with his study, referring to these Western views.

People in those days said that the universe turned around the earth, but he thought it was impossible that the earth alone could be plane and the centre of the universe.

"Stars are spherical and rotate on their axes and the earth is also a spherical planet as other stars are, and turns round the sun," he said.

He also insisted that to say the earth was the centre of the universe was the same as to say sitting at the bottom of a well that the universe was little.

He asserted that there were facts which proved the earth is round as he cited the facts that man's eyesight is limited on the earth and that the sun and the moon rise above the horizon. He also said that night follows day because the earth rotates and the man did not notice the fact that the earth turns round the sun, because man was too small, just as ants on a large ball were not aware of that they were on it.

A picture of Hong Dae Yong drawn by a Chinese scholar.

He said that eclipses of the sun and the moon are due to the movement of the moon which turns round the earth and the four seasons of the year is due to the fact that the sun shines upon the earth at different angles.

The universe is boundless and there is no internal or external side of the universe, nor is there inside or outside of it, he asserted.

It is worthy of note that he discovered that the earth turns on its axis. He gave objective explanations on many natural phenomena including the high and low tides, rainfall, snowfall, thunder, mist and so on.

His view on natural science, however, relied more or less upon his intuition because of the lack of experimental study. But his views on these matters were advanced for his days and became the basis of his materialistic view of the world.

It is said that he invented some instruments for astronomical study and observation.

Hong Dae Yong left some books behind him and his books were contained in a collection of books called "Tamhonso" which was published in 1393. Among them are "Wisanmundap" in which his views on nature and society are written on the basis of the results of his physical and scientific study in the form of questions and answers, and "Chuhaesuyong" which dealt with geometry, mathematics and observation of planets and in which he unified the results of previous studies of natural science in Korea and rounded off his researches, adding many results of natural science in the West and China.

He expressed his opinions on politics and economy in "Rimhakyongryun" which is also contained in "Tamhonso" and wrote a travel book on China "Yongi", in which he records Chinese culture, institutions and customs.

He was a leader of a study group called "Pukhakpa", whose policy was that it was necessary to learn from any countries however alien and barbarous they were.

Such his progressive idea was reflected in the fields of labour and education. He said that all people must work regardless of his or her position and people with knowledge and talent should assume responsible posts and education should be given all people.

This was an assertion only Hong Dae Yong could make. He held production and technological skill in high esteem and held a rational and scientific view of the world.

Unlike other scientists he held a special position for his study on national defense, education and social problems.

Thus in a feudal society filled with religious views on natural phenomena, he continued his study on the basis of a materialistic view of the world and his studies on these matters had a far-reaching influence on the people of Korea even after his death.

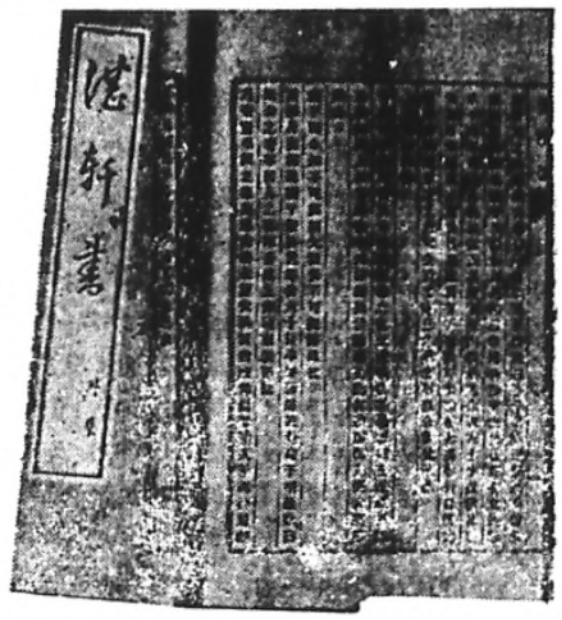

Photo shows parts of "Tamhonso" which was compiled in 1939.

Old Tales and Legends

Kyong Min and Chon Do Pal

Once upon a time there lived a boy called Kyong Min in a village, together with his old father. He was 12 years old yet quite clever.

One warm spring day his father was sighing heavily on the earthen porch of his home.

Kyong Min asked his father why in an anxious tone of voice.

"Because we have no land to farm on," answered his father sadly.

"There are lots of lands to till. Are those not lands?" said Kyong Min and pointed to mountains at the back of the village.

"They all have their owners."

"You mean mountains have their owners?"

"O yes. They all belong to the magistrate." The father's voice was plaintive as ever.

"You mean Chon Do Pal." Now Kyong Min nodded to show his understanding.

In fact, local people were living in abject misery under the tyranny of the cruel Chon Do Pal. This villain made everything he wanted his own. And he also had a bad whim of arresting people and flogging their buttocks if they failed to answer tricky questions he put. He arrested people and beat them from the caprice of the moment. Even babies, therefore, stopped crying at the mere mention of his name.

"Father, there is a reclaimable land in the valley between the mountains behind the village. Let's clear the land for cultivation," urged the son.

The father was led by the son to the valley. There was a wasteland long washed by the rain. From that day on they worked themselves to the bone to reclaim it. One day Chon Do Pal turned up. At first he glared at them. But presently he smiled a sly self-satisfied smile. After a while he said, "Then, try to farm well" and disappeared. Now the father and son felt relieved and worked hard. That year the reclaimed land yielded fairly good crops of millet. One day government officials turned up abruptly and bound the father. They said they did so because they cultivated millet in the magistrate's fields without permission.

Dumb founded, Kyong Min cried and cried, stamping his feet.

Several days later Kyong Min left home to meet Chon Do Pal. Villagers worried about him and followed him. At the gate of a huge tile-roofed house the magistrate's guards stopped villagers. But the latter made great ado, pressing the former to allow them to meet the magistrate. Chon Do Pal awoke from nap and roared: "What?! What?! What do they say? Immoral creatures! Arrest them and bring them in at once!" Kyong Min and all villagers were caught.

"We made fields in the valley which had been washed by the rain for hundreds of years and raised millet. How can you blame us for it?"

"What say? You fool, you think the valley belongs to none?" Chon Do Pal growled at the villagers as if he were going to chew them right up.

Kyong Min fearlessly retorted: "Sir Magistrate, you came when we were working in the fields and said that we were doing a good thing. But now you arrest us. How on earth can you dignitary be double-tongued? How?"

Though brazen-faced, he had praised them and now goggled his eyes, stammering. He began to think of teaching them a good lesson. He hit on a capital idea. "If you give a correct answer to the question I put, your father shall be set free and I will return the millet fields to you. But if you fail you will be flogged. Who will answer?" intimidated the magistrate. A terrible fear numbed the villagers' hearts. They could not even imagine the cunning and vicious magistrate's trick.

Kyong Min came forward and said: "I'll try."

"Why, you? Good. You must remember how you'll be treated if you fail," threatened the magistrate.

"Yes, sir. But you must also keep your word." Kyong Min got an assurance from him.

"Now answer me," said the magistrate and produced a piece of paper with a picture drawn on. On the paper there were a wrinkled woman of 60 or so, a full-blown beautiful peony before her and a tail-wagging fat puppy in front of the flower.

Kyong Min looked into the picture for a while and answered: "This is a fine picture. It depicts a 60-year-old woman who clicks her tongue complaining of her old age, 'While I was young I was as beautiful as the peony but now old, I have nothing but wrinkes', when the puppy comes wagging its tail, thinking itself to be called".

Chon Do Pal filled his eyes with the white and said he would raise another question. Then he sat down on the boarded porch and clutched the floor, and ordered: "Now, let me out right away." Kyong Min span round him. The magistrate pooh-poohed: "Hum! Nothing can help and you are caught in my trap this time." Villagers were all silent as if they held their breath. Kyong Min opened his mouth: "All right. I cannot get you out but I can let you in."

"Well, try to let me in." Chon Do Pal jumped to his feet in high glee and went out full of confidence. Then he turned about and shouted him to try. "Sir Magistrate, please stand there just a minute! Now you are out, eh?"

"What? ... Oh my!" Now the magistrate learned that he was outwitted by Kyong Min and grew as stiff as a statue. Now Kyong Min urged the magistrate to act up to his promise. The latter was fully disgraced in the presence of many villagers and officials and went back on his word and ordered Kyong Min to answer still another question.

"The last question. Catch the sun in the sky at once. Be quick!"

Villagers turned as pale as death. They had never dreamed of catching the sun in the sky. The magistrate stood for a while, breathing heavily, before he dictated to his men in high spirits to tie up villagers. Kyong Min snatched the ropes from the magistrate's men and slung them over his shoulder, and said: "Sir Magistrate, I'll catch the sun at once. Make me a ladder to reach the sun. Then I'll climb up the sky by the ladder right away, bind the sun tightly with the ropes and come down with it." And he rushed about as if he was about to go up to the sky at once.

"You rascal try to make an ass of me again? But you can never fool me this time. Who in the world can make such a ladder?" Chon Do Pal fell into a humming rage.

"Then, how can you order me to catch the sun in the sky?" Kyong Min humphed.

"What? What?" Chon Do Pal stammered and stood agape.

Villagers burst into gay laughter.

Later, Kyong Min and his father lived happily with their villagers, tilling the land.

Rough Sailing Ahead of Roh (2)

Can Roh Tae Woo Make Good On His Ambitious Promise of Democratic Reform?

With outgoing president Chun Doo Hwan seated behind him, Roh made it clear that he hoped to bury the past, not to praise it. "From now on, everyone, not just a single person, will have a say in what is good for the country," Roh proclaimed. "The day when freedoms and human rights could be slighted in the name of economic growth and national security has ended. The day when repressive force and torture in secret chambers were tolerated is over."

Making good on those promises will be no easy task, whatever the depth of his commitment. Four decades of autocratic rule have left Korea with few democratic traditions and institutions. The military has long resisted calls for genuine reform. Moreover, even now Roh must be careful not to alienate those 37 percent of Koreans who voted for him over his leading opposition rivals, Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam. Perhaps it was simply to appease them that Roh recently announced a new 24-member cabinet that included eight holdovers from Chun's regime. But that move also heightened suspicion that Roh's commitment to reform might be less than advertised. "It may be more difficult for him," editorialized The Korea Times, "to change his nature than his style."

Kwangju massacre: Roh might also consider following the advice he received last week from the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy and National Reconciliation, a 56-member panel he appointed after his election to advise him on how best to achieve democratic reform. Most significantly, the panel urged the government to apologize to the people of Kwangju —and to compensate survivors and victims' families—for the 1980 massacre in the southern city in which it's alleged that government troops killed as many as 2,000. The committee also recommended that Roh's government curtail surveillance of dissidents at home, rehire government officials and teachers fired for their political beliefs and take steps to strengthen judicial independence and freedom of the press.

It's likely, however, that Roh's biggest concern over the next two months will be how to turn his political capital into a victory for the DJP in forthcoming National Assembly elections, which must be held by April 28. Last week Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung met for the first time since their debacle at the polls and agreed to back a unified slate of opposition candidates for the legislature. It's generally agreed that if the two Kims—who between them won 55 percent of the presidential vote—can break precedent and join forces, the opposition has a fighting chance to win control of the assembly. If that happens, Roh will find out sooner than he would imagine that one of the first laws of democracy is compromise. **(Newsweek, Mar. 7, 1988)**

Roh Has to Accept Reconciliation Proposals

"Only a week before the inauguration, after the names of Roh's Cabinet members leaked out, the newly unshackled press gave Roh his first taste of what wide-open dialogue meant. More thorny problems lie ahead: continuing student unrest, growing trade troubles with the U.S., and ambitious campaign promises that must be fulfilled.

Roh's Cabinet choices seemed to indicate that the President was distancing himself from Chun more in rhetoric than in reality. Roh's advisers let the names of the ministers be known before the formal announcement in an effort to gauge public reaction – a first in South Korea. The response was a chorus of complaints: no fewer than eight of the 24 ministers had served in the Chun Cabinet. Said Lee Chul, an independent opposition member of the National Assembly: "The Cabinet is filled with tired politicians and ex-generals."

As Roh keeps an eye on the opposition and its strategy, he will have to address himself to sensitive problems linked to South Korea's trade surplus of nearly $6.5 billion with the U.S., which buys 40% of South Korea's exports, including Hyundai cars, Gold Star VCRs and Samsung television sets. Washington would like Seoul to revalue the won upward and remove South Korea's barriers to U.S. imports. Says a Korean official: "A country that sells 400,000 cars to America can no longer afford to forbid Americans to sell cigarettes." Washington's envoy at the inauguration was Treasury Secretary James Baker, the point man in U.S. efforts to wring concessions from South Korea on the trade front.

The President also faces an uphill struggle in trying to convince his countrymen that he believes in human rights. On his first day in office, Roh took the impressive step of granting amnesty to 7,234 criminals, including 1,712 political offenders who either were in jail or had their civil rights restricted as punishment for the activities. The amnesty, one of the most sweeping in South Korean history, had been suggested by Ad Hoc Committee for the Promotion of Democracy and National Reconciliation, a group of 56 South Koreans from varying backgrounds nominated by Roh to make human rights recommendations.

The committee's report also asked that the government accept responsibility for a massacre at Kwangju, a southern city where South Korean soldiers, then under Chun's command, killed at least 192 civilian during an antigovernment uprising in 1980. Since then, Kwangju has been one of the opposition's most effective rallying cries. Both Chun and Roh have refused to acknowledge wrongdoing in the affair.

The committee specifically called on the government to make "apologies" for the "excessive suppression measures" in Kwangju and the "failure to take proper care of the bereaved." The state, it proposed, should pay compensation to families of victims. Other recommendations made by the committee: restrict the activities of the security agency and ban political involvement by military personnel. The President promised to abide by the "spirit" of the recommendations. If he is serious about his pledge to share his countrymen's "dreams and pains," he may have to accept all or most of the committee's proposals. **(TIME, Mar. 7, 1988)**

Roh's Amnesty Leaves Most of Dissidents in Prison

SEOUL – President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea announced a political amnesty Friday (Feb. 26) that left several noted dissidents in jail and disappointed many human rights activists.

The amnesty, Mr. Roh's first official act, came as police discovered a time bomb inside a U.S. cultural center in the provincial capital of Kwangju. The device had been intended to go off at the same time as students occupied the U.S. cultural center here Wednesday (Feb. 24), the police said.

Mr. Roh decided to release about 125 political prisoners, leaving 260 in jail, according to official figures. Other sources said the number of prisoners still confined for anti-government activities is considerably higher.

"This shows there's no difference from the former regime," Rhee Kyoung Bae, an official with the National Council of Churches, commented. "They must clean up all the past cases if they want people to have a new impression."

The partial amnesty was Mr. Roh's second act in recent days that disappointed Koreans who hope their new president will make a clean break with the past. Earlier he appointed a cabinet that retained most high-profile ministers from the government of Chun Doo Hwan, the former president.

The release of 125 political prisoners was part of a general amnesty affecting more than 7,000 criminals, parolees and others. Such amnesties have been a Korean tradition since Yi Dynasty times when new kings would set prisoners free.

"I expected more student leaders would be released," said Han Mi Soon, 29, a housewife.

"I think the amnesty is big in numbers, but not generous enough."

Among those not released was Kim Keun Tae, South Korea's best-known political prisoner and winner of the Robert F. Kennedy human rights award in October. Mr. Kim initially was slated for release, according to knowledgeable sources, but hard-liners in Mr. Roh's new government won the battle to classify Mr. Kim as a "hard-core leftist" who should not be released.

"It's too bad, because now this government is going to continue to have human rights problems," a Western diplomat said. **(The Washington Post, Feb. 27)**

No Easy Road for Roh

South Korean President Roh will be wearing a smile – albeit a worried one – when he moves into the presidential Blue House to launch a new era of rising expectations.

. . . why should Roh be worried? For one thing, carrying out political and economic pledges will not be easy, especially if opponents win a sizable block of seats in Parliament. Moreover, Roh's critics, among them vocal university students, still claim that the election was rigged and that he remains a tool of the military. The militants won't stop protesting. The biggest challenge of all will be economic. Besides potential labor strife over future wage demands, Roh faces mounting pressure from the U.S. to redress a lopsided trade imbalance in Seoul's favor. Washington wants Korea to open up its markets and raise the value of the won. Satisfying the U.S. without alienating Korean farmers, businessmen and workers will be dicey. Already, anti-U.S. demonstrations by farmers and students are starting to grow in intensity.

For the short term, the patriotic fervor stirred by Seoul's hosting of the Olympic Games in September may give Roh political breathing room. But when the euphoria wanes, he'll have to deliver the goods. **(U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Feb. 29, 1988)**

Chun Still behind Roh Regime

Mr. Roh's most urgent tasks, however, will be to establish his legitimacy as president by winning the confidence of the 63% of voters who didn't support him in the election, and to heal the wounds caused by years of repressive military-backed rule and regional antagonism.

'The Biggest Problem'

To his opponents, especially students and dissident groups, that may not be possible. His most vocal critics contend that Mr. Roh stole the election through vote fraud, so accepting his legitimacy is out of the question. And the transfer of power to him from Mr. Chun, they insist, is in reality no more than a change of faces that will allow the same military elite to run the country.

Korea's recalcitrant students began returning to college campuses this week after their midyear break and immediately fell back into their familiar pattern of anti-government demonstrations.

Riot police firing tear gas subdued several hundred rock-throwing students at Yonsei University in Seoul on Tuesday (Feb. 23) as they sought to rally in protest against Mr. Roh. Some students promised more fireworks at his inauguration Thursday, and the government mobilized security forces to block any attempt to disrupt the ceremony.

"The biggest problem Roh has," says a Western diplomat, "is to convince the Korean people that he isn't really just a clone of Chun Doo Hwan, and that he does intend to bring some measure of democracy to Korea."

Mr. Roh still has serious problems. The most notable one, sources involved with his transition team say, is President Chun. They complain that Mr. Chun's staff, instead of cooperating with the team, has been putting obstacles in its way and making demands on behalf of themselves and the departing president.

In particular, the sources say, Mr. Chun has tried to build a post-retirement political power base by demanding that certain of his friends receive government appointments, pushing for his own candidates in the April elections and insisting that he be made head of a state advisory council of former government officials.

In addition, Mr. Roh's ability to manage the military, seen as essential to winning broad support for his reform movement, also has been undermined by Mr. Chun, the sources say, as a result of Mr. Chun's appointment last month (January) of several new military commanders. **(The Asian Wall Street Journal, Feb. 24, 1988)**

A student throws a petrol bomb at riot police on Mar. 5 during an anti-Roh Tae Woo protest outside Yonsei University in Seoul. About 1,000 students and dissidents took part in the demonstration. (Reuter)

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